

BOTKIN AND HIS CONVICTS.

High on the bluffs of the Missouri River at Lansing, a few miles south of Leavenworth, Kan., there is a community of 865 persons living in a walled city and ruled by a kindly appearing monarch. The monarch is not only lawmaker and judge of the city, but he is superintendent of all business activities, all recreation and the religious life.

Here are some of the industries of the town over which he has jurisdiction:

A coal mine, a laundry, shoe shop, tailor shop, brick plant, lime kiln, a farm of 2,000 acres, a dairy where seventy-five cows are milked, a binding twine factory that produces half a million dollars' worth of twine annually and sells it a cent and a half cheaper than the harvester trust and makes a profit.

Though all who go to the city are treated kindly and are well fed, they go unwillingly, for the city is the State Prison of Kansas. The kindly monarch is Rev. J. T. Botkin, the new preacher-warden of the Kansas Penitentiary.

Time was in Kansas when the prison was a place where men were sent for punishment for wrong. Stern men ruled with an iron hand and prisoners suffered grievously for their sins. When they were released from prison they went back to their lives of crime and were again sent to prison.

That set the people of the State to thinking and instead of keeping a prison as a place to send men for punishment, they turned it into a repair shop for men and women and the wardens were chosen for their efficiency as repairers of men's souls instead of their ability to rule with force. With the idea of establishing the rule of reason in the Kansas Penitentiary, Governor George H. Hodges passed over the men of might and picked for his warden the gentle man who had been a minister of the gospel and who, for six years, had been a presiding elder of the Methodist Church.

Armed Guards Are Not Allowed.

Botkin does not believe in force. No armed guards are allowed within the walls and the men with guns who sit on the walls to prevent escapes, are required to stay in the towers where they cannot be seen.

The prisoners wear well-tailored suits of gray. Stripes have been abolished and the lock-steps unknown. When the men go to their meals or to their work they march in squads like school boys in parades.

"Work will redeem men," says the pastor-warden. When he began his term July 1 he announced his policy would be to find plenty of work. When working hours are over the men have to play. A prison band has been organized and the men are entertained at concerts.

The warden's policy works well. Without an armed guard to watch them, 200 men go down 720 feet below the surface of the ground every day and dig coal. A hundred more men are at work building a fireproof twine factory. Besides the men at other industries inside the walls, there are farmers and gardeners who leave the prison every day to work on the farm in the dairy and truck gardens. They are men who have won the confidence of the officers of the prison and get unusual freedom.

Rule of Reason Holds Men in Line.

A few guards oversee them as they go about their tasks, but no weapons are visible, and there never has been an organized attempt on their part to get away. The rule of reason holds them

and the warden maintains that it is effective.

Botkin has a wide experience with men. Born in Illinois, he went to Kansas with his parents in 1865. When of age he returned to his native State, where he became a minister. Thirty-one years ago he was transferred to Kansas. There he preached for a number of years, finally becoming presiding elder of the Wichita District. In 1896 he ran for Congress on the fusion ticket and was elected to represent the State at large. Twelve years later he ran for Governor and was defeated by W. R. Stubbs.

Last January when Governor Hodges announced Botkin would be the new warden of the penitentiary upon the expiration of the term of J. K. Coddling, Coddling, a lawyer, appointed Botkin chaplain so he could have actual experience inside the prison before taking charge.

He learned the real heart of the prisoners and found that they are criminals only before the law. Looking a murderer in the eye he saw the murderer was the same as any other human being. Grading him on the point of percentages he found the murderer had slain a fellow man only once. The rest of his life he did not kill. He might have been an unusually good man the

erty to liquor. They may or may not have been habitual drinkers.

There is a clerk in here from Wichita who went out with some men and began to drink. He thought it would be fun while drunk to steal a load of flour. He drove around town with it all night and when morning came was afraid to return it. So he took the flour home and hid it in his cellar.

That day the flour was found and he was sentenced to prison.

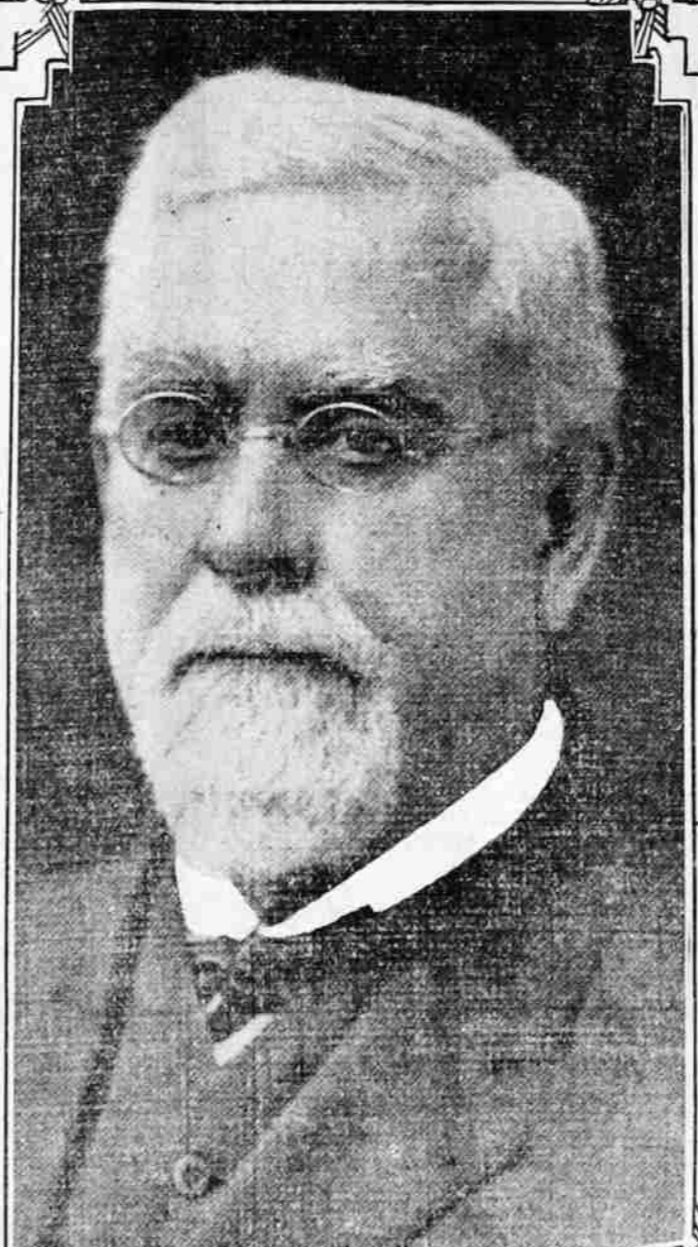
There is another man here who has a letter from Stanford White praising him as an architect. He was paroled not long ago and was getting along well. He was lost sight of for two weeks and when found he was at Maryville, Kan., drunk. Of course his parole was forfeited and he was brought back here.

Few busy men are criminals. Work is a habit but it is a good habit and has the opposite effects of drink.

Many Men Do Not Know How to Work.

"Do you know there are men who do not know how to work? Well, there are—lots of them. Some of them were misfits in the line of work they had to do and they decided they didn't want to do it. Some of them were forced to work as book-keepers when in reality they were out out to be something else. Society refused to give them a job at what they were fit out to do.

My job here will be to find out what kind of work each man is cut out to do. The result will be that



New Warden of Kansas State Penitentiary Graduates Into His Job From Chaplain and Will Apply the Rule of Reason in Conducting Prison.

their work.

"It is the duty of the prison management to fit as many of the prisoners as possible into good citizens, men and women who will never again take up a life of crime.

To bring about these results the first thing I did was to employ a competent cook who knew how to cook and he employed men skilled in the preparation of food.

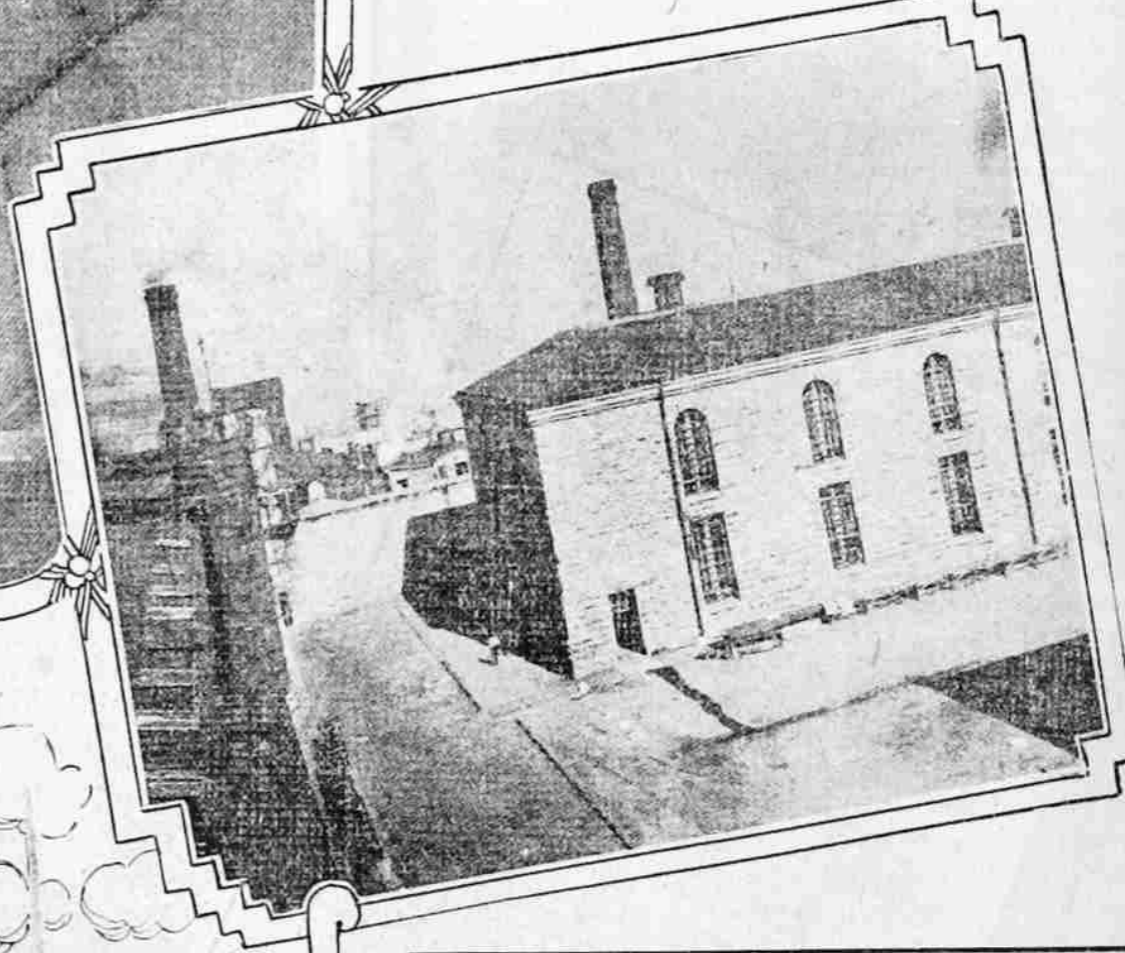
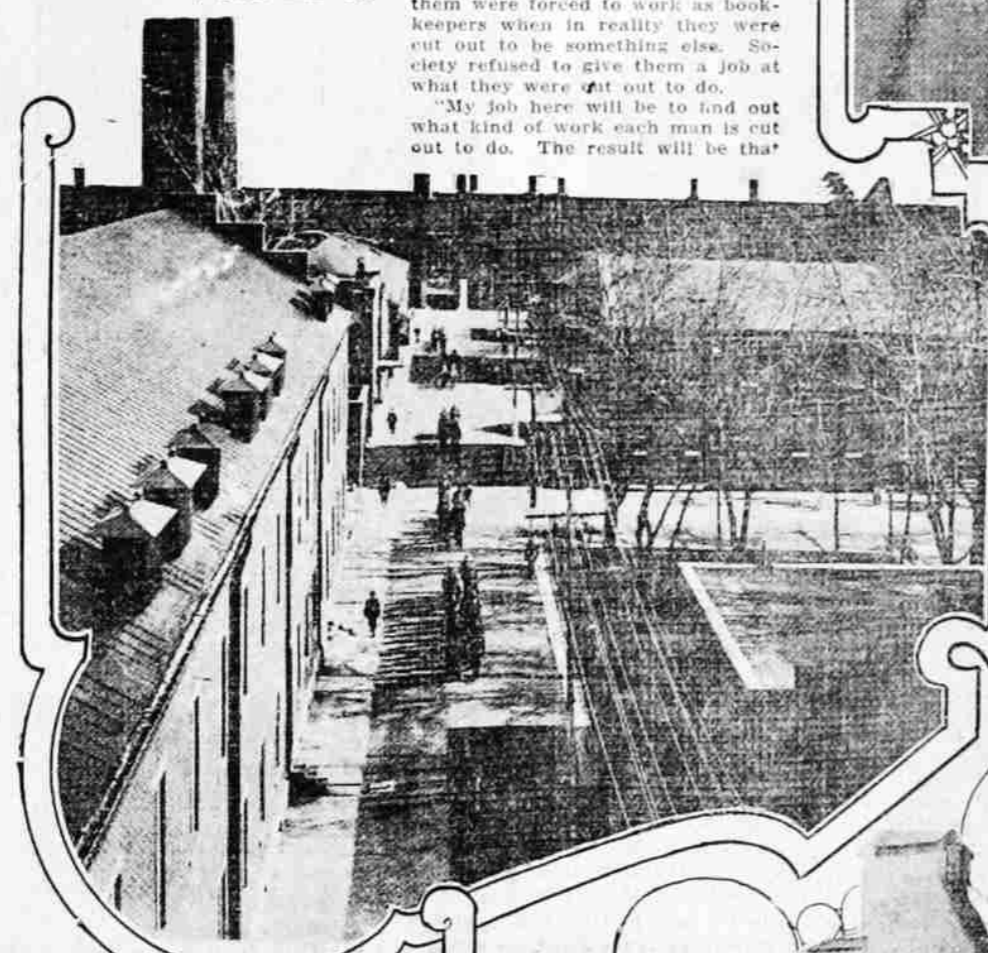
A fight was made on tuberculosis and other diseases that thrive in our prisons. A first-class hospital was established with a modern operating room. More than 600 operations were performed there by the prison surgeon. Men who had become criminals because of ill health were cured of chronic maladies so they could return to the world and fight the battle of life unhampered.

"Prisoners should never be made to feel they are prisoners. They should be made to feel they are men and with that idea in mind one of the first things I did was to abolish a rule which required prisoners leaving the walls of the penitentiary on the expiration of their sentence to avert their faces and folding their arms. They were taught kindness and self respect.

Cigarettes were prohibited. Vulgar and profane language was not allowed.

We operated a night school and one-half of the prisoners studied there. We taught agriculture, electrical engineering, Spanish, book-keeping, shorthand and the Bible.

Men and women were allowed to play and the result is their health was improved and their morals were improved in like degree."



The main entrance and front of the Kansas State Prison is shown at the top. In the center is J. D. Botkin, the warden. Below the warden, at left, is a view of the inside of the prison yard at the noon hour, when the prisoners are marching to dinner. To the right is the east wing of the cell-house, showing the coal mines in the background. At the bottom is the tipple and coal chute.

ABOUT SOULLESS CORPORATIONS

The young woman stenographer for the president of a big subsidiary company of a bigger corporation in this city fluttered about her work a little more expeditiously recently, and the president, noticing it and that she was rigged and russed up in clothes other than her regular trim office attire, said, "Something doing this afternoon, Miss —?"

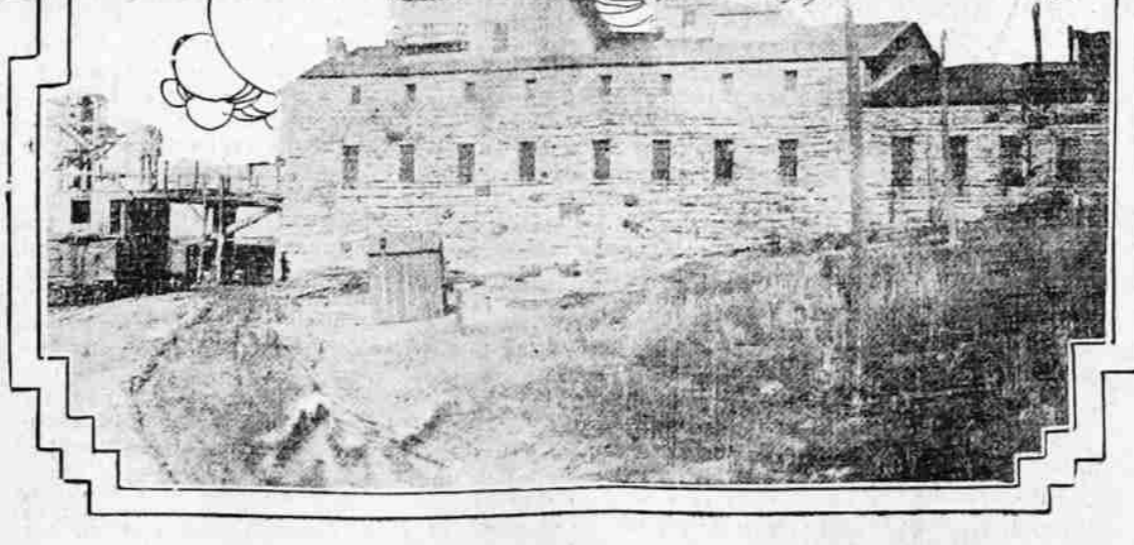
"Yes, with some of the other girls I am going to see a play in New York," she answered.

"Oh, that is very nice," replied the president. Then he ordered the heads of the departments in which the other six were working to excuse the young women so that they could catch the 11 something train to town, ordered a motor car to take them to the station, paid for their tickets to New York, told his stenographer to take the young

women to his club for luncheon, ordered lunch for seven over the telephone, giving the steward orders to prepare the best he had and see that everything was done for the comfort and pleasure of seven young ladies he was sending in to lunch.

Needless to say the young women were delighted and surprised, for not only did they have a "scrumptious luncheon" as they declared it, a flower-bedecked table and all that, but they had another argument to add to others, that corporations and the individuals who compose them have more souls and give better returns to the employee who assists, even in his small way, in running of a corporation.

Seven girls enjoyed the play more than others present because they were happy that they worked for a corporation and grateful to a gentleman who had helped make their existence enjoyable.



he will become enthusiastic with his work and will like it. When he serves his sentence I want him to be so eager to work he will go away from here and never come back."

But everything will not be settled from the viewpoint of a peace-loving pastor. The new warden believes in discipline.

"Every man and woman in this place will have to do what he is told to do," he said. "If he doesn't, we will take away his privileges. We will not whip him or send him to the stocks. We will take away

his pleasure, which is a thousand times more effective than irons and beatings."

Warden Botkin said he is going to get acquainted with the prisoners personally.

"That's the way I worked when I was a minister and that is the way I will work now," he said. "I have had many position of responsibility, but this is the most responsible."

Botkin, in assuming charge of the penitentiary, said he would follow out the principles of his predecessor in office, J. K. Coddling.

In speaking of his four years' work as warden of the penitentiary, Coddling said upon retiring:

Feeds Men To Make Them Good.
"The majority of the prisoners who come here are hungry. They are not hungry for one meal but for a system of feeding and care that would give them red blood and fiber for their bodies. They need food to give them strength to do